

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7305

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06557

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, CU, CG, BE

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: REPORTING FROM BELGIAN CONSULATE IN LUANDA

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICAN DESK OFFICER (VERKAMMEN) SUMMARIZED
FOR US LATEST REPORTING FROM BELGIAN CONSULTATE IN LUANDA (DE
ROBIANO AND GRAFFE). HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

2. DE ROBIANO ESTIMATES THAT MPLA HAS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ONLY
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ABOUT ONE THIRD OF TERRITORY OF ANGOLA. REST IS CONTROLLED

EITHER BY GUERRILLAS OR IS CONTESTED ZONE. HE VIEWS CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBANS AS MILITARY NECESSITY FOR MPLA GOVERNMENT. HE REPORTS THAT THERE IS EXTENSIVE DEBATE AND CONTROVERSY IN LUANDA DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES AS TO WHETHER THERE IS ANY NET WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN TROOPS FROM ANGOLA TAKING PLACE AT ALL.

3. DE ROBIANO OBSERVES THAT CUBANS MIGHT WELL WISH TO WITHDRAW FROM WHAT HE TERMS "MINI-VIET-NAM SITUATION". HE REPORTS "SERIOUS LOSSES" OF CUBANS IN ENCOUNTERS WITH GUERRILLA FORCES. PORT OF LOBITO HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR "SEVERAL NIGHTS" WHILE CUBAN SHIPS OFFLOAD "CARLOADS" OF COFFINS OF DEAD CUBAN SOLDIERS WHICH AVE BEEN ARRIVING AT THAT PORT BY RAILWAY FROM THE INTERIOR.

4. CUBAN MILITARY SOURCES TOLD DE ROBIANO THAT LARGE CUBAN FORCE PREVIOUSLY SIGHTED ON THE HIGHWAY NEAR DONDO (160 K EAST OF LUANDA) WAS NOT REPEAT NO, AS SUSPECTED, CUBAN CONTINGENT ON ROUTE TO LUANDA FOR RETURN TO CUBA. ON CONTRARY, CUBAN UNIT (50 TRUCKS, 20 TANKS, ARMORED VEHICLES, ARTILLERY) PART OF CUBAN "SYSTEMATIC OPERATION" TO CLEAR GUERRILLAS FROM CERTAIN AREAS INLAND FROM LUANDA. DE ROBIANO ESTIMATES THIS CUBAN SWEEP AIMED AT FNLA UNITS OPERATING NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF LUANDA IN THE AREA OF AMBRISY AND NAMBUUNJINGO. FIRESTONE

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